7. Customs and Central Excise, Moreh, Manipur.

8. United Bank of India, Moreh, Manipur.

9. Union Bank of India, Bombay.

10. Union Bank of India, Ahmedabad.

11. Mazagaon Dock Ltd., Mangalore Yard Unit, Mangalore.

12. Hindustan News Print, News Print Nagar, Kerala.

13. BHEL, Madras.

14. Income Tax City Circle-I, Madras.

15. FCI, Lucknow.

16. Mahanagar Telephones Nigam, New Delhi.

17. Andhra Bank, Calcutta .

18. Income Tax, Bhopal.

19. Syndicate Bank, Partapur, Distt. Meerut.

20. Central Bank of India, Tajganj, Agra.

21. Bharat Cooking Coal Ltd., Dhanbad.

22. Bokaro Steel Plant, Bokaro.

23. Rourkela Steel Plant, Rourkela.

24. Oil India Ltd., Duliazan.

25. Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd., Pimpri, Pune.

26. Bank of Baroda, Bombay.

Pending cases and vacant posts of Judges in Delhi High Court

388. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) as on date the total number of cases which are pending before the Delhi High Court for disposal; categorywise figures thereof;

(b) the number of cases which are pending for more than (i) 3 years, (ii) 5 years and (iii) 10 years categorywise figures thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that presently the Delhi High Court is without a permanent Chief Justice; if so, the reasons for the same and the steps to be taken to appoint Chief Justice immediately;

(d) what is the number of vacancies of Judges in Delhi High Court as on date; the date on which each vacancy has occurred and the steps taken to fill those up;

(e) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of judges in the near future; if so, the details thereof; and

(f) what other steps are proposed to be taken to dispose of long pending cases immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Information as furnished by the Registry of Delhi High Court has been indicated in Statement I laid on the Table of the House. (*See* below).

(c) Consequent on the transfer of the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court as Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court, appointment of an Acting Chief Justice in Delhi High Court was made on 17th March, 1988. The matter of appointment of Permanent Chief Justice is engaging the attention of the Government.

(d) As on date, there are 4 vacancies of Permanent Judges (including that of the Chief Justice) and 2 vacancies of Additional Judges in the sanctioned strength of 25 Permanent Judges and 2 Additional Judges. These vacancies occurred on 16th August, 1987, 21st August, 1987; 5th October, 1987 23rd October, 1987, 10th February, 1988 and 17th March, 1988. Filling of these vacancies is engaging the attention of the Government.

(e) It has been decided to create 6 new posts of Additional Judges.

(f) The steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency in courts have been indicated in Statement II (*See* below) laid on the Table of the House.

Statement I

The number of cases category-wise pending before Delhi High Court as on 1st January, 1988

	Main cases	Misc. cases	Total
Original Side			
1. Civil (Original side)	22916	25993	48909
2. Writ Petitions (Civil)	10281	1639	11920
3. Criminal (Original side)	44	178	222
4. Writ Petitions (Criminal)	250	—	250
Appellate Side			
1. Civil	12222	699	12921
2. Criminal	3162	63	3225
GRAND TOTAL :	48875	28572	77447

Total pendency as on 1-1-1988=77447

	Over 3 years old			Over 5 years old			Over 10 years old		
	Main	Misc.	Total	Main	Misc.	Total	Main	Misc.	Total
Original Side									
1. Civil (Original Side)	10508	9080	19588	5886	3497	9383	1069	1	1070
2. Writ Petitions (Civil)	5260	106	5366	3881	—	3881	1076	—	1076
3. Criminal (Original Side)	20	—	20	8	—	8	—	—	—
4. Writ Petitions (Criminal)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appellate Side									
1. Civil	8164	—	8164	6504	—	6504	2078	—	2078
2. Criminal	1671	—	1671	1026	—	1026	29	—	29
TOTAL :	25623	9186	34809	17305	3497	20802	4252	1	4253

Statement II

Steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency in courts

1. Elimination of arrears in all courts had been discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held on 31st August—1st September 1985 and the Resolutions of the Conference had been commended to the High Courts and the State Governments for implementation.

2. The Code of Civil Procedure was amended in 1976 to abolish Letters Patent Appeal from judgment of Single Judge of the High Court in Second Appeal (*vide* Section 100-A)

3. The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 was amended in 1978 to expedite trial of criminal cases.

4. The sanctioned strength of the High Court Judges has been increased from 351 in March, 1977 to 443 as on 1st April, 1988.

5. The recommendations contained in the 79th Report of the Law Commission on delay and arrears in High Courts and other Appellate Courts are being implemented by the High Courts.

6. The High Courts are taking the following steps to expedite disposal of cases:—

(a) Cases involving, common questions are being grouped together;

(b) Matters are fixed for hearing by giving short returnable dates;

(c) Printing of records is dispensed with in many cases; and

(d) Priority is given to cases requiring quick disposal.

7. The Government have entrusted the Law Commission, the study of the judicial system to introduce necessary reforms. The terms of reference are:—

(a) the need for decentralisation of the system of administration of justice by:

(i) establishing, extending and strengthening in rural areas the institution of Nyaya Panchayats or other mechanisms for resolving disputes;

(ii) setting up a system of participatory justice with defined jurisdiction and powers in suitable areas and centres; and

(iii) establishing other tiers or systems within the judicial hierarchy to reduce the volume of work in the Supreme Court and the High Courts;

(b) the matters for which Tribunals (excluding Services Tribunals) as envisaged in Part-XIVA of the Constitution need to be established expeditiously and various aspects related to their establishment and working;

(c) the procedural laws with a view generally to disposing of cases expeditiously, eliminating, unnecessary litigation, delays in hearing of cases and reforms in procedures and procedural laws and particularly to devising procedures appropriate to the fora envisaged in ittms (a) (i) and (a) (ii);

(d) the method of appointments subordinate courts, subordinate judiciary;

(e) the training of Judicial Officers;

(f) the role of the legal profession in strengthening the system of administration of justice;

(g) the desirability of formulation of the norms, which the Government and the Public Sector Undertakings should follow in the settlement of disputes including a review of the present system for conduct of litigation on behalf of the Government and such Undertakings;

(h) the cost of litigation with a view to lessening the burden on the litigants;

(i) formation of an All India Judicial Service; and

(j) such other matters as the Commission considers proper or necessary for the purposes aforesaid or as may be referred to it from time to time by the Government.

Transfer of Judges

389. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Judges who have been transferred from one High Court to another during the last three years; and

(b) the number of such Judges in each year in each High Court?